



DEPARTMENT OF HAWAIIAN HOME LANDS

News Release

LINDA LINGLE
GOVERNOR

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DHHL AWARDS 34 HOMESTEAD LOTS; ADJACENT 386-LOT SUBDIVISION ON TRACK FOR HOME CONSTRUCTION IN '08

MAUI, HAWAII—The Department of Hawaiian Home Lands (DHHL) awarded 34 vacant lots in Kula, Maui today. The department also reports the infrastructure for the adjacent 386-lot Kēōkea-Waiohuli subdivision is under construction and on schedule to be completed next summer with the first phase of homes ready for construction in the fall of 2008.

The 34 lots are the first substantial vacant lot awards from the department in more than five years and has conditions attached to address previous concerns of leased lands staying vacant for years. Awardees must show financial ability to build a home and construction must begin in one year.

“We have an opportunity to address a desire by some beneficiaries to build their own home,” said Micah A. Kāne, Chair of the Hawaiian Homes Commission (HHC) and director of the Department of Hawaiian Home Lands. “The lots are in an existing Hawaiian Homes subdivision and we are fortunate to provide this opportunity for those who are financially capable.”

Adjacent to the new vacant lot awards is the 386-lot Kēōkea-Waiohuli residential subdivision, made up of the 66 farm lots and 320 Undivided Interest awards. As a result of fulfilling a commitment made more than 20 years ago to the 66-farm-lot subdivision in Kēōkea, DHHL repositioned a waterline and road allowing the department to effectively service the farm lots while also opening lands for an additional 320 lots in the Waiohuli subdivision.

“The Kēōkea-Waiohuli subdivision is a great project because we are fulfilling a commitment made more than 20 years ago to develop the farm lots, while opening lands for a total of 386 new residential units,” said Kāne. “The Waiohuli portion of the project is also an Undivided Interest Award so the beneficiaries who have a lease can use the next one to three years to prepare for assuming a home mortgage.”

The 320 undivided interest leases were awarded in June 2005 in an emotional ceremony that saw some native Hawaiians who have been on the waiting list for more than 25 years finally receive an award.

“I am proud of DHHL’s innovative approach to utilize services for one subdivision as a catalyst for an even larger project that will benefit more people,” said Governor Linda Lingle. “This is such an important development because it increases the inventory of affordable housing on Maui. Every person that receives a Hawaiian Homes lease means one less person competing in the affordable housing market, and that is good for everyone.”

Kāne praised the new lease award the department developed to help those who have been on the wait list the longest.

“Because the Undivided Interest Lease is awarded one to three years before the house is built, it provides people with time to prepare to financially qualify for a mortgage,” said Kāne. “Being able to financially qualify has been a major roadblock for accepting a lease.”

While the project is being developed, DHHL will provide financial guidance under its Home Ownership Assistance Program (HOAP) to help improve credit, create savings accounts, and reduce debt.

Kāne said the department recently awarded 104 homestead leases at the Villages of Leialī in Lahaina and 98 homestead leases in the Waiehu Kou 4 project in Waiehu.

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